

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

COMPLETE LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-37 : (Canceled)

Claim 38 : (Currently Amended) A method of enabling marking of gemstones, comprising the steps of:

a) manufacturing, at a manufacturing site, stencils with cutouts arranged in marking patterns;

b) filling the cutouts with a fusible material ~~having a melting point greater than that of the gemstones;~~

c) sending the stencils from the manufacturing site to marking sites at which marking of the gemstones is to be performed;

d) applying the stencils on the gemstones to be marked at the marking sites; and

e) inscribing the gemstones with the marking patterns of the stencils applied to the gemstones at each marking site by heating the fusible material at each marking site to a temperature sufficient to melt the fusible material and form cavities in the gemstones, the cavities in the gemstones constituting the marking patterns.

Claim 39 : (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38, wherein the fusible material is one of a metal material, a metal oxide material, a ceramic material, and an alloy of said materials.

Claim 40 : (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38, wherein the applying step includes the step of adhering the stencils in direct contact with the gemstones to be marked.

Claim 41 : (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38, and the step of covering the cutouts filled with the fusible material with a cover layer.

Claim 42 : (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38, wherein the cutouts are sequential numbers.

Claim 43 : (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38, wherein the cutouts are a logo.